

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8622

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO MORRIS PALADINO, AAFLI-WASHINGTON,
FROM WEAST

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJ: AAFLI

QUOTE:

1. HAVE MET WITH NITISH DE, HEAD OF NATIONAL LABOUR INSTITUTE
(NLI), RECOMMENDED BY DUBE, TOP CIVIL SERVANT LABOUR MINISTRY.

2. NLI IS AUTONOMOUSE BODY FINANCED PRIMARILY BY INDIAN
GOVERNMENT BUT PARTICALLY SELF-SUPPORTING. PRIMARY
FUNCTION IS DIDACTIC, RECIPIENTS IT TRAINING BEING
MAINLY DRAWN FROM DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS. IT DRAWS
HEAVILY ON US ACADEMIC SOURCES FOR TRAINING ITS
TEACHING STAFF AND FOR "PRACTICAL" RESEARCH IDEAS,
THOUGHT BY SOME TO BE FOR USE OF GOVERNMENT IN PREPARING
NEW LABOR LEGISLATION.

3. DURING ONE HOUR INTERVIEW I DESCRIBED AAFLI PROGRAMS
IN INDIA AND ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING OUR ARBITRATION WORK
PHILIPPINES, WHICH WAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO HIM
BECAUSE HE IS SEEKING TRAINING SOURCES FOR HIS STAFF AT
THIS MOMENT IN THIS AREA, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF CONTEMPLATED
CHANGE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD
PLACE HEAVY EMPHASIS ON ARBITRATION. I EXPLAINED
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OUR GENERAL POLICY, OPERATION METHODS, STRUCTURE

FINANCING AND GOALS, EMPHASIZING BREADTH OF OUR EXPERTISE, DRAWING AS IT DOES MOST HEAVILY ON SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE AVAILABLE IN U.S. TRADE UNION MOVEMENT BUT ALSO ON MANY OTHER RELEVANT SPECIALIZED STRATA BOTH IN US AND ABROAD, INCLUDING ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN US WITH SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE OF LABOR, HE SEEMED MUCH IMPRESSED BY LABOR ACTIVITIES AT UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN, WITH MOST OF WHICH HE WAS SURIMISINGLY UNFAMILIAR.

4. NLI WAS FOUNDED SLIGHTLY LESS THAN ONE YEAR AGO. DE HAS REPUTATION AS ENTHUSIASTIC AND DEDICATED GO-GETTER, IS POLITICALLY WELL CONNECTED AND IS SAID TO BE PARTICULARLY CLOSE FRIEND OF LABOR MINISTER, OVER WHOM HE HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE. I TOLD HIM FRANKLY WE ARE INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING OFFICE IN INDIA, AND WE AGREED OUR INITIAL MEETING HAD DISCLOSED MANY AREAS OF POTENTIAL COOPERATION AND NO APPARENT OBSTACLES TO A POSSIBLE WORKING RELATIONSHIP. HE HAD TALKED WITH DUBE BEFORE MEETING WITH ME AND WAS DOUBTESS BRIEFED BY HIM ON STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN THUS FAR TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE, INCLUDEING OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH INTUC.

5. DE TOLD ME HE WOULD AGAIN TALK WITH DUBE AND SUGGESTED WE MEET AGAIN TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION AT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE MAY TWENTY-TWO, WHEN HE WILL COME TO OBEROI FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING, AFTER WHICH HE WILL HAVE LUNCH WITH ME AND GERDA AT MY INVITATION.

6. DE GAVE ME CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF LITERATURE CONCERNING NLI STRUCTURE, OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMS, WHICH I WILL STUDY BEFORE NEXT MEETING. I WILL COMMIT US TO NOTHING WITHOUT STEP-BY-STEP CLEARANCE FROM YOU, BUT WISH POINT OUT THAT AT THIS JUNCTURE THIS AVENUE SEEMS TO HOLD SOME PROMISE AS A TOOL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOE-HOLD HERE. THE NLI OBVIOUSLY NEEDS THE KIND OF KNOWLEDGE WE CAN FURNISH AND DE SEEKS MORE THAN HALF-WAY CONVINCED ALREADY THAT THIS IS THE CASE. IF WE COULD COME IN THROUGH SUCH A TIE WITHOUT COMPROMISEING ANY OF OUR PRINCIPLES AND WERE ALSO FREE TO OPERATE DIRECTLY WITH UNIONS WHICH MEET OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE CRITERIA, WE WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THE POSITIVE VALUE OF OUR PROGRAMS IN ASSISTING THE INDIAN WORKER.

7. REQUEST YOU SEND ME BY REGISTERED AIRMAIL DIRECTLY TO OBEROI TWO PACKETS PRINTED MATERIAL AFFORDING MAXIMUM INFORMATION ABOUT US, WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE HAVE DONE, OUR OBJECTIVES, WHO STANDS BEHIND US AND WHOM WE WORK WITH

FOR POSSIBLE DELIVERY TO DE IF PROGRESS OF MY NEGOTIATIONS
WITH HIM WARRANT IT. I AM RELIABLY INFORMED DE ANTI-
COMMUNIST AND STATEMENTS HE MADE DURING MEETING SUPPORT
THIS CONCLUSION. PLEASE SEND THIRD PACKET C/O U.S. EMBASSY
MARKED FOR ME TO GUARANTEE RECEIPT.

8. I REPEAT, I WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY THIS MATTER STEP-BY-
STEP WITH FULL INFORMATION TO AND CLEARANCE FROM YOU. AT
THIS STAGE THIS APPROACH IS ONLY A POSSIBILITY BUT, IN MY
OPINION, IT IS WORTH EXPLORING. PLEASE EXPEDITE DESPATCH
OF MATERIAL REQUESTED. WEAST. END QUOTE.

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